



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending August 19, 2007

## TOBACCO HARVEST ADVANCES IN DRY, HOT WEATHER

Dry, hot weather last week allowed Tennessee tobacco producers to make excellent progress with harvesting and topping. Harvest was progressing from on-schedule to a week ahead of last year with the crop rated in mostly fair-to-good condition. The State’s other major row crops remained in mostly poor-to-fair condition and in desperate need of a good downpour and cooler temperatures. Tennessee’s corn crop continues to progress closer to harvest with almost half of the acreage having attained maturity. One-fifth of the State’s cotton crop has begun to open, while over a tenth of the soybeans are dropping leaves. Soybean development is about a week ahead of the five-year average, with numerous cases of heat and moisture stress reported. Pastures continued to deteriorate, while livestock producers fed hay and hauled water. Other activities across the State included silage harvest and preparing machinery for harvest.

There were 7 days last week considered suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 69 percent very short, 27 percent short, and 4 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 71 percent very short, 27 percent short, and 2 percent adequate. Temperatures last week averaged well above normal, while rainfall averaged below normal across most of the State.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Dent	95	86	92	90	Corn	27	32	29	12	0
Corn – Mature	44	21	30	28	Cotton	4	22	37	31	6
Corn – Harvested for Silage	60	47	58	47	Pastures	52	32	14	2	0
Cotton – Bolls Opening	20	n/a	4	5	Soybeans	29	31	28	12	0
Soybeans – Blooming	97	93	99	95	Tobacco	12	19	38	28	3
Soybeans – Setting Pods	88	83	96	86						
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	14	n/a	9	4						
Tobacco – Topped	78	66	79	79						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	25	14	25	23						
Tobacco – Dark Air-Cured Harvested	41	22	20	24						
Tobacco – Dark Fire-Cured Harvested	30	19	26	26						

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments (Complete list of comments below)

*“The row crop situation has become critical over this week and last week being extremely hot and dry. With no immediate rainfall relief in sight expect crop conditions to continue to rapidly deteriorate. Early group 2 & 3 soybean harvest on a few acres have started this week. A few corn acres are being reported to have been harvested this week but that has not been confirmed. Expecting both corn and soybean harvest to begin in full swing by the last week of this month.”*

**Tim Campbell, Dyer County**

*“Cotton has begun to open prematurely due to dry weather. Wheat beans beginning to die.”*

**Richard Buntin, Crockett County**

*“The situation for most farmers has gone from bad to depressing. Some cattle producers are selling entire herds. Tobacco growers with irrigation capabilities are pumping water around the clock.”*

**Ronnie Barron, Cheatham County**

*“This week of over 100 degree temperatures has really effected Giles County agriculture drastically. Cotton is looking very bad now. Cotton and soybeans wilting in the field. Some soybeans are trying to set pods at only 14-16 inches tall. Silage corn harvested has very little grain. Practically all pastures are gone. Most producers feeding hay or selling cattle. Record sale numbers recorded at the local stock yard over the last couple of weeks. Many producers selling because they have no water. Ponds, streams, and springs have dried up. Unofficial temperatures for Wednesday and Thursday reached 109 degrees.”*

**Kevin Rose, Giles County**

*“I was at a beef producer's farm yesterday. He had to move his cows to a different field because the spring dried up. He's 76 and says it has never been dry before. One of my top beef producers told me today that he had to sell all of his calves he had consigned to an organized sale later this fall. No hay! These 98-100 degree days with no rain have taken a toll on all crops. Beans are dropping leaves with no sign of a bean or bloom. Corn producers are planning on round baling their crop.”*

**John Goddard, Loudon County**

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION  
For week ending: August 19, 2007 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending August 19, 2007				Current Week 08/19/07	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	106	66	87	9	0.22	3	19.14	-14.98	11.50	-8.85
Tri-City_RGNL_A	97	59	78	5	0.03	1	16.03	-11.34	10.51	-6.49
Brownsville_TN	105	71	88	10	0.94	2	18.06	-16.12	10.27	-10.11
Chattanooga/Lov	104	72	87	10	0.08	1	22.60	-12.35	15.35	-3.87
Clarksville_Sew	106	68	86	10	0.00	0	23.95	-8.90	14.83	-4.37
Cookeville	102	62	81	7	0.00	0	22.10	-15.17	12.20	-10.04
Covington	103	69	87	9	1.50	2	23.12	-10.25	14.34	-5.35
Crossville_AP	97	64	81	9	0.21	1	23.52	-13.29	16.50	-5.29
Dayton	100	66	82	7	0.00	0	21.76	-14.90	15.13	-5.51
Dickson_AG	105	64	85	9	0.00	0	22.06	-12.98	12.47	-8.56
Dover_1W	105	68	86	11	0.13	2	21.53	-12.54	11.15	-9.02
Dyersburg	106	70	87	9	2.30	1	21.63	-10.97	12.55	-7.23
Erwin_1W	98	62	78	7	0.00	0	22.26	-10.97	16.64	-5.08
Huntingdon_Wate	105	68	87	10	0.10	1	16.64	-17.46	8.23	-12.11
Jackson_Exp_Stn	105	68	87	10	0.00	0	17.52	-16.40	8.84	-11.80
Kingston_AG	102	65	82	8	0.03	1	23.98	-14.63	15.78	-6.75
Knoxville_AP	101	66	83	7	0.03	1	21.60	-10.24	14.56	-3.96
Lewisburg	106	58	85	9	0.04	1	22.05	-13.99	14.42	-7.04
Lexington_TN	106	68	88	10	0.04	1	18.40	-14.75	8.81	-11.15
Linden	105	67	85	10	0.00	0	20.17	-16.22	11.01	-10.39
Martin	106	69	88	11	0.27	2	22.23	-12.21	11.26	-9.94
Mc_Minnville_Tn	104	67	85	10	0.12	2	21.95	-13.14	14.93	-5.74
Memphis_AG	106	71	89	8	0.46	1	21.97	-11.41	14.00	-5.89
Milan	105	68	87	11	0.27	1	19.32	-15.73	11.08	-10.35
Murfreesboro_5N	106	63	84	8	0.00	0	23.40	-11.22	12.52	-8.32
Nashville_Metro	106	69	88	10	0.00	0	17.49	-13.67	9.92	-9.00
Newcomb	98	61	78	7	0.00	0	24.43	-11.70	16.42	-5.84
Oneida	100	63	79	7	0.05	1	22.77	-13.36	15.27	-6.99
Portland_TN	105	68	85	10	0.00	0	22.94	-10.97	13.58	-7.03
Pulaski_Water_P	104	63	84	7	0.00	0	17.90	-17.87	8.86	-11.52
Savannah_6SW	107	67	89	11	0.31	2	20.59	-16.45	11.93	-9.65
Sparta_TN	103	62	83	9	0.08	1	21.54	-14.64	13.15	-8.46
Springfield	106	64	84	9	0.00	0	20.68	-11.89	11.79	-7.91
Springhill	109	63	86	11	0.00	0	20.73	-15.41	11.23	-10.30
Union_City	104	67	85	9	0.08	1	21.71	-11.81	11.50	-8.84
Waynesboro_TN	105	66	86	11	0.15	2	21.91	-16.08	13.72	-8.50

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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*“Crop conditions continue to deteriorate; most pastures are pretty much gone. Corn harvest has started on the driest corn and cotton defoliation will start next week.”*

Jerry Parker, Lauderdale County

*“Drought continues, livestock producers are buying high priced hay from Arkansas or selling their cows. Soybeans are being cut for hay.”*

Steve Glass, Decatur County

*“Dry, dry, dry!!! One farmer said it was so dry he caught a catfish the other day with a tick on it. Seriously, I have received a lot of calls on our water situation this week. Hay is being fed, cattle are being sold and pastures look almost dead to the eye. Corn has dried down quickly and harvest has begun. Early beans are also being harvested. Cotton looks bad in areas and the top crop is short. This used to be a problem because of boll weevils but not this year after our situation.”*

Jeffery D. Via, Fayette County

*“Producers are beginning to harvest some corn acreage with yields being reported in the 110-120 bushel range. Early planted/early maturing soybeans have started dropping leaves. Soybeans planted behind wheat are starting to die in soils with poor water holding capacity. Pastures have dried up with cattle producers feeding hay and hauling water. Hay is being purchased from surrounding states in order to maintain herd numbers.”*

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

*“Another week of hot and dry has been tough on crops and livestock. Pastures are scorched offering little forage to livestock. Hay is now being fed all across the county which is prematurely shrinking the already low hay supplies. Some producers are selling livestock while some are looking at alternative feed sources.”*

Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County

*“The past week has totally wiped out the double crop beans. They will all be abandoned, not even tall enough to cut for hay. Many of the full season beans have dropped their pods, and probably will be cut for hay. Late transplanted tobacco is dying in the field and mostly will be abandoned. Earlier transplanted tobacco is being harvested after only 4 weeks past topping because it is beginning to die. Massive numbers of stock beef cows are being sold this week.”*

John Bartee, Montgomery County

*“At my unofficial rain gage, I have recorded 14 inches of rainfall for the year, approx. 4 inches since April 15. People are hauling water to houses and animals. An excavator reported that he dug 10 feet, near a stream bed, before he struck mud. A dozer operator digging a new pond bed dug 15 feet down before finding moist ground.”*

Ken Burress, Wayne County

*“The 100+ temperatures have played havoc with everything trying to grow. Anyone that fertilized with manure or put nitrogen on after the first cutting has nitrates in their johnsongrass, sudangrasses and I have checked corn stalks that farmers are wanting to bale that showed nitrates also. Our pastures are gone and farmers are feeding hay and several farmers are out of water. Farmers are trying to decide whether to sell or purchase feed for the fall and winter.”*

Larry Moorehead, Moore County

*“Hot dry winds are drying things even more rapidly than lack of rainfall alone. Some beans will be cut for hay soon. I've seen fields cut and baled for hay over the last 3 weeks that have set idle for at least 5 years with absolutely nothing being done with them, so you can imagine what the hay quality from those fields is like. Several farmers are testing johnsongrass for nitrates and prussic acid before cutting for hay.”*

Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County

*“Johnsongrass is being cut for hay, that is all that is left in the fields. Forage grasses are fried.”*

David K. Glover, Smith County

*“Continued 100 degree plus days, dry winds, and no rainfall have intensified the effect of the drought on crops and livestock. Cattle are standing in the shade to deal with the heat. Most pastures are totally brown. Soybeans are trying to survive. Tobacco has begun to fire-up badly in the last week. Pond water to irrigate vegetables and pumpkins are rapidly disappearing.”*

Bob Ary, Sumner County

*“Extreme heat with steady winds has wrecked what chance we had of a soybean crop. Plants that were green top to bottom ten day ago have lost 25% or more leaves in a week. More than normal acres of corn are being chopped for silage in an effort to salvage the corn crop and fill in for hay shortages. Pastures that were recovering have again turned into dry and parched fields. Some pastures with a little grass grown by July showers can't be use because ponds in fields are dry. A lot of farmers are hauling water for their cattle. Overall, Coffee County is in serious condition in relation to this season's corn, soybean and hay crops.”*

Dean Northcutt, Coffee County

*“Weather continued to be hot & dry. Temperatures continue to hang around the 100 degree mark. Some spotty*

*showers occurred late in the week but did little to produce appreciable rainfall. The corn crop is drying down quickly with some limited harvesting occurring, mainly setting up machines, more widespread harvest expected this week. Soybean crop has been hammered by the heat as a lot of blossoms have dried and shriveled, with little or no pod set. Early beans are beginning to shed leaves, heat and dry contributing to small beans. Pastures are about non-existent forcing livestock producers to continue to feed hay or grain and grain by-products. Reports of livestock producers out of water or using municipal water are fairly common.”*  
Ed Burns, Franklin County

*“Triple-digit heat and no rain is taking its' toll on crops and forages. Pastures and hay fields are parched and livestock ponds are at critically low levels. Several beef producers continue to reduce herd size amid short hay supplies and no pasture.”*  
John Wilson, Marion County

*“We have burned up.”*  
Ron Johnson, Overton County

*“Three weeks, without rain, with high temperatures. Soybeans need rain badly, corn too late to help. Pastures are critical; many farmers will sell cows this week or start feeding hay again.”*  
J. Dale Beaty, Warren County

*“Hot dry conditions in August have depleted the soil of any moisture from July rains. We have had no rain in August. Ponds, streams and springs are drying up. Hay stocks are very short. Producers started liquidating herds in June and more liquidation will happen soon if we do not get rain soon.”*  
Mike Heiskell, Claiborne County

*“It is HOT & DRY in Grainger County TN. We need hay for livestock producers.”*  
Anthony Carver, Grainger County

*“The past two weeks have been devastating to all crops in the area. High temperatures, wind, and no rain have combined to completely stop crop growth. Pastures have stopped growing and have essentially dried up with any chance for a late cutting of hay practically gone. Livestock producers are using limited hay supplies to supplement depleted pastures while others are reducing or liquidating their cattle inventory. Water for livestock is a problem for many producers.”*  
Bob Sliger, Monroe County

*“Continued dryer weather has begun to affect crops and livestock. Above 100 degree weather and no rain in the past 2 1/2 weeks is affecting late planted corn and soybeans. Pastures are beginning to twist and turn brown.”*  
Jerry Lamb, Rhea County

*“Pastures and hay are beginning to dry up once again. Row crops are also in desperate need of adequate rainfall.”*  
Anthony M. Shelton, Washington County